



WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS FOR FOX VALLEY WISCONSIN COUNTIES

May 2004

Unadjusted Unemployment Rates Decline

This year there was a stronger than normal decline in the monthly unemployment rate between March and April in the Fox Valley Workforce Development Area. Generally the seasonally unadjusted rate for the area declines about 0.5 of a percentage point based on an average change between 1990 and 2003. However, this year the rate declined 1.2 of a percentage point to 4.5 percent. Although the decline was more than average for the month, the rate for April was still slightly above the average monthly rate of 4.2 percent for the period.

All of the counties in the Fox Valley WDA experienced declines in their monthly unadjusted unemployment rates for April. The declines ranged from a low of 1.1 percentage point in the Appleton/Oshkosh MSA up to a decline of 2.4 of a per-

centage point in Green Lake County. Although Green Lake County had the greatest drop in its unemployment rate during the month, it remained the highest in the region at 6.3 percent and ranked 26th highest out of Wisconsin's 72 counties. The Appleton/Oshkosh MSA had

the lowest rate in the region at 4.3 percent followed closely by Fond du Lac County at 4.4 percent.

The decline in the unemployment rates is due to normal seasonal patterns that occur during this time of the year as well as an improving economy. For the month, the number employed increased 4,100, while the labor force re-

mained unchanged. Increasing employment during this period is typical for April and was above the average,

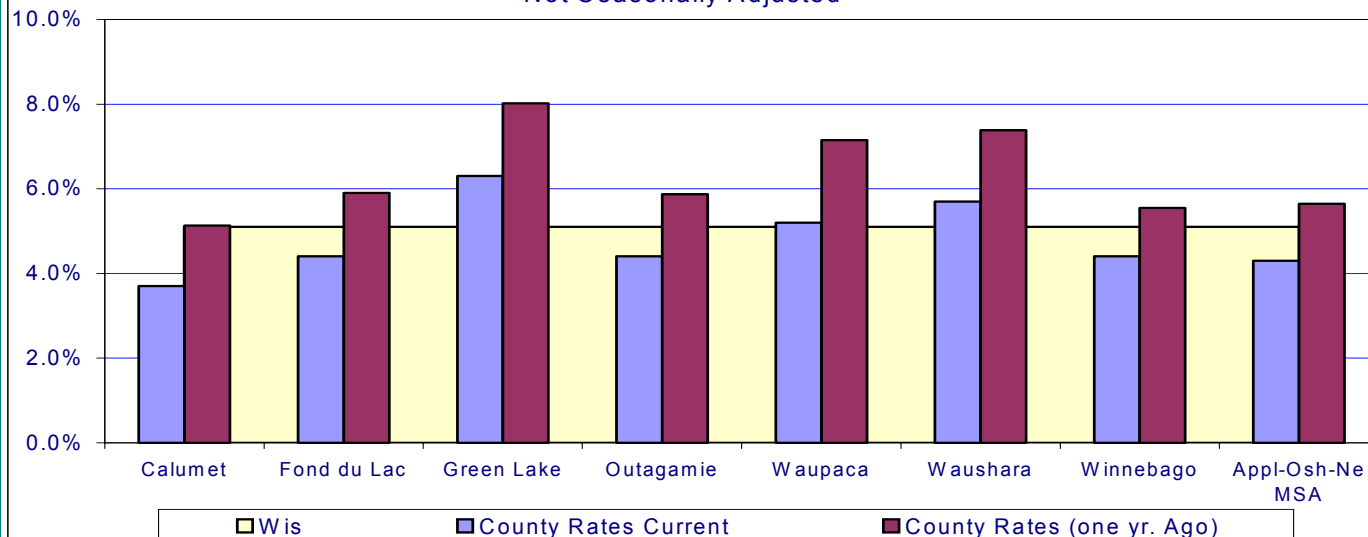
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Labor Force Estimates (Seasonally Adjusted)				
	Appleton-Oshkosh-Neenah MSA	Wisconsin	United States (000s)	
April-2004				
Civilian Labor Force	236,800	3,101,700	146,741	
Employment	227,200	2,957,800	138,576	
Unemployment	9,500	143,900	8,164	
Unemployment rate	4.0%	4.6%	5.6%	
March-2004 Change				
Civilian Labor Force	1,400	16,300	(137)	
Employment	3,100	39,600	97	
Unemployment	(1,900)	(23,300)	(234)	
Unemployment rate	-0.8%	-0.8%	-0.2%	
April-2003 Change				
Civilian Labor Force	900	30,100	364	
Employment	3,700	62,500	998	
Unemployment	(2,800)	(32,500)	(635)	
Unemployment rate	-1.2%	-1.1%	-0.4%	

Note: All estimates are round and preliminary, based on place of residence.

Fox Valley County Unemployment Rates

Not Seasonally Adjusted



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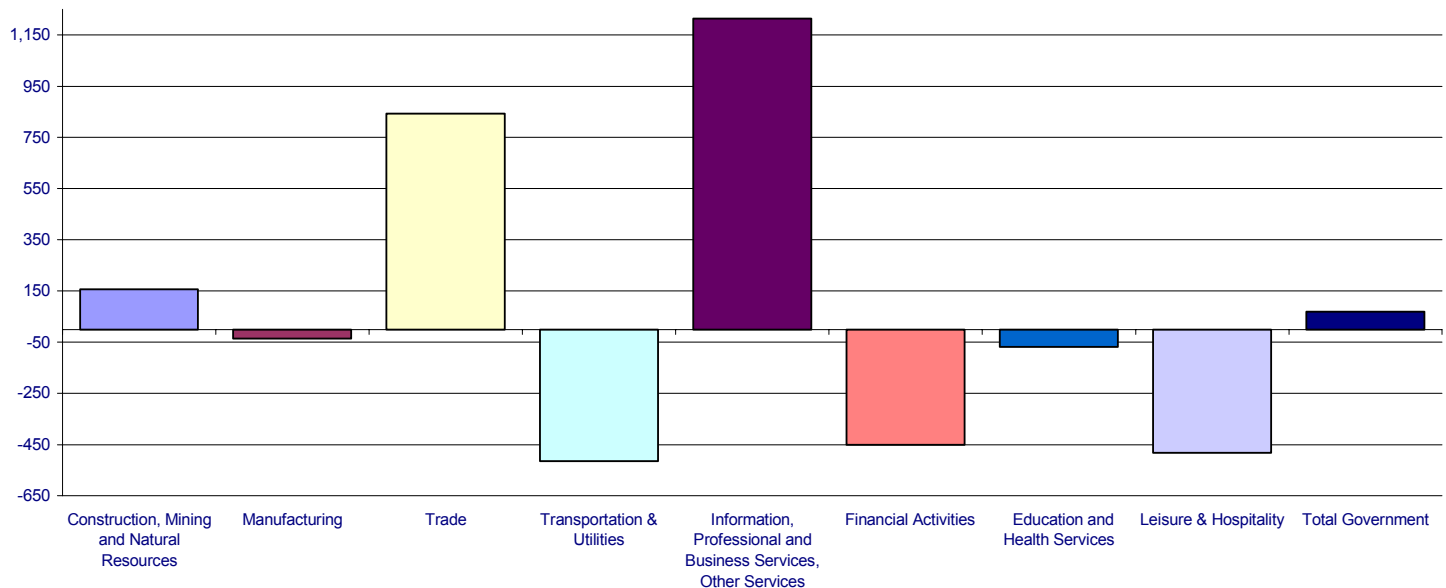
which is about 3,000. However, the change in the number of workers entering the labor force was less than average. This may be due to a combination of discourage workers not entering, or possibly fewer workers leaving the labor force last fall than normal.

Both the labor force and the number of employed in the region remained well above one year ago levels in the region, although not in all of the counties. Two of the counties saw no change in their labor force over the year. A more positive note, though, is that the number employed is

lected from an employer sample survey. In this survey, each job is counted once, so an individual here can be counted multiple times if the worker holds more than one job. Because the two surveys measure different things and use a different sample, they are not always in agreement.

Over the last twelve months, the number of NFWS jobs in the region has increased by 700. The majority of these jobs have in in service producing industries such as trade, which was up 800 jobs or transportation and utilities which was down by 500 jobs. Overall, service producing employment was up 600 from last year. Goods producing

Change in Fox Valley WDA NFWS Apr 2003 to Apr 2004



up in all of the counties in the region. Overall, the number in the labor force was up 1,100 from last year, while the number employed increased 5,800.

The number of employed includes all workers, such as self employed workers as well as paid and unpaid workers employed by a family business. This differs from Nonfarm Wage and Salary (NFWS) employment, which primarily covers employment covered by unemployment insurance. Data for the two are collected by different methods. Employment and labor force are determined by a household survey of approximately 1,200 households in Wisconsin of all members in the household 16 years of age and older. Due to sample size, other data such as unemployment claims are also calculated in as a supplement. In calculating this information, each individual is counted as employed only once, hence even if the worker has multiple jobs, the worker is still only counted as employed one time.

This is different than the NFWS data. The data is col-

lection was up 100 from last April. These jobs were in the construction industry. Manufacturing, which is also part of the goods producing sector was unchanged in the region. However, there was a shift in these jobs. The non MSA counties in the region, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Waupaca, and Waushara had a decrease of 500 positions, while the MSA counties, Calumet, Outagamie, and Winnebago Counties, increased by 500. The increase of 700 NFWS employment over the year brought the area up to 342,300 jobs. Just over 70 percent of these jobs are in the Appleton/Oshkosh MSA.

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

The seasonally adjusted rate for the Appleton-Oshkosh-Neenah MSA 4.0 percent. This was down from 4.8 percent in March and 5.2 percent last April. Rates for other MSA's around the state were: Green Bay, 4.2 percent; Sheboygan, 4.3 percent; Milwaukee, 5.6 percent, and Madison, 2.4 percent. The nation's unemployment rate

(Continued on page 4)

Wisconsin Fox Valley Workforce Development Area

April 2004	App/Osh/Neenah	Fond du Lac	Green Lake	Waupaca	Waushara	Fox Valley WDA	Fox Valley Non MSA's	Wisconsin
Civilian Labor Force*	235,300	56,800	10,500	27,500	12,200	342,300	107,000	3,082,900
Employed	225,100	54,300	9,800	26,100	11,500	326,800	101,700	2,925,200
Unemployed	10,200	2,500	700	1,400	700	15,500	5,300	157,700
Unemployment rate(%)	4.3%	4.4%	6.3%	5.2%	5.7%	4.5%	5.0%	5.1%
Seasonally Adj. Rate (%)	4.0%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	4.6%
Total Nonfarm	203,200	47,200	7,300	21,000	6,000	284,700	81,500	2,799,700
Total Private	179,200	41,200	5,900	17,000	4,500	247,900	68,700	2,378,700
Goods Producing	59,000	13,000	1,600	5,600	1,100	80,400	21,400	627,600
Service Producing	144,200	34,200	5,700	15,400	4,800	204,300	60,100	2,172,100
Constr., Mining & Nat.Rsrcs	12,400	2,600	400	800	300	16,500	4,100	125,000
Manufacturing	46,600	10,400	1,200	4,900	800	63,900	17,300	502,600
Trade	30,000	7,200	1,000	3,000	800	42,000	12,000	434,900
Transportation & Utilities	6,700	1,300	260	500	300	9,000	2,300	319,000
Financial Activities	10,300	1,800	290	700	200	13,300	3,000	158,600
Education and Health Services	21,700	6,200	1,100	2,600	700	32,200	10,500	375,000
Leisure & Hospitality	15,600	4,600	700	2,200	700	23,900	8,300	243,200
Info., Prof. & Bus. Svcs, Other Svcs	35,900	7,100	1,000	2,400	600	47,100	11,200	967,700
Total Government	24,000	6,000	1,300	4,000	1,500	36,800	12,800	421,000
Federal	1,100	700	70	100	100	2,100	1,000	29,200
State	5,300	4,940	20	900	400	7,200	1,900	101,500
Local	17,600	5,100	1,300	3,000	1,000	28,000	10,400	290,300
Change from one month ago March 2004								
Civilian Labor Force*	100	100	-100	-100	0	0	-100	-9,400
Employed	2,500	800	100	400	200	4,100	1,500	24,300
Unemployed	-2,400	-800	-200	-600	-200	-4,100	-1,800	-33,700
Unemployment rate(%)	-1.1%	-1.3%	-2.4%	-1.9%	-1.5%	-1.2%	-1.7%	-1.1%
Seasonally Adj. Rate (%)	-0.8%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	-0.8%
Total Nonfarm	3,300	600	390	400	100	4,800	1,500	39,600
Total Private	3,200	600	330	400	100	4,600	1,400	37,000
Goods Producing	1,300	200	50	100	0	1,700	400	12,100
Service Producing	2,000	400	330	300	100	3,200	1,200	27,500
Constr., Mining & Nat.Rsrcs	900	200	50	100	0	1,200	300	8,400
Manufacturing	400	0	0	0	0	400	0	3,700
Trade	500	200	50	50	0	800	300	5,400
Transportation & Utilities	-100	0	10	0	0	-100	0	3,900
Financial Activities	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	-500
Education and Health Services	200	0	0	0	0	100	-100	800
Leisure & Hospitality	400	100	150	190	0	800	400	8,500
Info., Prof. & Bus. Svcs, Other Svcs	900	100	60	70	0	1,200	300	10,400
Total Government	100	0	60	30	0	300	200	2,600
Federal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
State	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	1,600
Local	100	100	60	20	0	200	100	1,000
Change from one year ago April 2003								
Civilian Labor Force*	700	0	0	100	300	1,100	400	29,200
Employed	3,700	900	200	600	400	5,800	2,100	61,100
Unemployed	-3,000	-900	-100	-600	-200	-4,800	-1,800	-31,900
Unemployment rate(%)	-1.3%	-1.5%	-1.7%	-2.0%	-1.7%	-1.4%	-1.7%	-1.1%
Seasonally Adj. Rate (%)	-1.2%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	-1.1%
Total Nonfarm	500	200	-100	100	100	700	200	38,100
Total Private	700	0	-200	100	100	700	0	45,700
Goods Producing	600	-300	-100	-100	0	100	-500	4,100
Service Producing	-100	500	0	200	0	600	700	34,000
Constr., Mining & Nat.Rsrcs	100	0	0	0	0	200	100	5,400
Manufacturing	500	-400	-100	-100	0	0	-500	-1,300
Trade	800	100	0	0	0	800	0	11,700
Transportation & Utilities	-300	-200	0	0	0	-500	-200	8,100
Financial Activities	-500	0	0	0	0	-500	0	2,700
Education and Health Services	200	-300	0	0	0	-100	-300	10,700
Leisure & Hospitality	-900	300	-100	100	0	-500	400	7,500
Info., Prof. & Bus. Svcs, Other Svcs	800	300	0	0	0	1,200	400	22,400
Total Government	-200	200	100	0	0	100	300	-7,600
Federal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-500
State	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-4,100
Local	-200	200	100	0	0	0	200	-3,000

* Includes participants residing in area. ** Includes employment with employers located in area. Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted.
 Current month estimates are preliminary. Totals may not add due to rounding. Calculations based on unrounded numbers. N/A data is benchmarked to 3/2002

U.S. Consumer Price Index - All Urban Consumers (CPI-U)**National (U.S. City Avg.) 1982-84 = 100****Class B/C-North Central
States (1996 - 100) (Size
50,000-1,500,000)****Class D-North Central States
(1996 - 100) (Size Less than
50,000)**

	Apr-04	Mar-04	Apr-03	Apr-04	Mar-04	Apr-03	Apr-04	Mar-04	Apr-03
Item	Index	Index	% Change Previous Month	Index	Index	% Change Previous Month	Index	Index	% Change Previous Month
All Items	188.0	187.4	2.3%	115.6	115.2	2.1%	173.0	173.0	0.3%
Food & Beverage	185.0	184.9	3.4%	113.2	113.6	1.8%	175.0	175.0	3.7%
Housing	188.4	187.9	2.3%	113.7	113.5	1.6%	163.9	163.9	-0.7%
Apparel & Upkeep	124.3	123.5	0.3%	93.4	92.1	-0.4%	128.7	128.7	-6.5%
Transportation	161.8	160.5	1.6%	116.0	114.9	3.3%	145.9	145.9	-2.3%
Gasoline (all types)	155.3	149.8	11.0%	160.4	153.4	17.8%	130.7	130.7	0.4%
Medical Care	308.3	307.5	4.7%	134.0	132.9	6.9%	301.1	301.1	7.0%
Energy	145.9	143.1	5.6%	141.3	138.0	9.5%	129.2	129.2	3.5%

(Not seasonally Adjusted)

(Continued from page 2)

was 5.6 percent, and Wisconsin's was 4.6 percent. The seasonally adjusted rate declined in 10 of the states eleven metropolitan statistical areas. Wausau was the only MSA with an increase in its seasonally adjusted rate as it went

from 3.8 percent in March to 4.2 percent in April.

For additional labor market statistics contact our website at: <http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/lmi>.

Look for the most current Labor Market Information at: <http://www.DWD.STATE.WI.US/LMI>

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